Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following sentence as the first line of the specification:

This application is a 371 National Stage filing of PCT/EP2005/002450 filed March 4, 2005, which claims priority to EP 04090484.9 filed December 9, 2004, EP 04090203.3 filed May 21, 2004, EP 04090121.7 filed March 29, 2004, EP 04090088.8 filed March 5, 2004, and US Provisional Patent Application No. 60/550022 filed March 5, 2004, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Please replace the paragraphs at page 85 line 18 to page 86 line 3 with the following:

The conditions and buffer specified by the manufacturer were used. In addition, the reaction preparation for the first strand synthesis contained the following substances:

3 µg total RNA

5 µM 3'-Primer (OK1rev1: 5'-GACTCAACCACATAACACACAAAGATC) (SEQ ID NO: 12)

0.83 µM dNTP mix

The reaction preparation was incubated for 5 minutes at 75°C and subsequently cooled to room temperature.

The 1st strand buffer, RNase inhibitor and DTT were then added and incubated for 2 minutes at 42°C before 1 µL Superscript RT DNA polymerase was added and the reaction preparation incubated for 50 minutes at 42°C.

Conditions for the amplification of the first strand by means of PCR:

1 µL of the reaction preparation of the first strand synthesis

0.25 µM 3'Primer (OK1rev2: 5'- TGGTAACGAGGCAAATGCAGA) (SEQ ID NO: 13)

0.25 µM 5'Primer (OK1fwd2: 5'-ATCTCTTATCACACCACCTCCAATG) (SEQ ID NO: 14)

Please replace the paragraphs at page 96 line 4 to page 97 line 23 with the following:

The part of the open reading frame from position 11 to position 288 of the sequence specified under ~~SEQ DIE NO 3~~ SEQ ID NO 3 was amplified with the help of reverse transcriptase and polymerase chain reaction using the synthetic oligonucleotides Os_ok1-R9 (GGAACCGATAATGCCTACATGCTC) (SEQ ID NO: 15) and Os_ok1-F6 (AAAACTCGAGGAGGATCAATGACGTCGCTGCGGCCCCTC) (SEQ ID NO: 16) as a primer on RNA of immature rice seeds. The amplified DNA fragment was cloned in the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as pML123.

The part of the open reading frame from position 250 to position 949 of the sequence specified under ~~SEQ DIE NO 3~~ SEQ ID NO 3 was amplified with the help of reverse transcriptase and polymerase chain reaction using the synthetic oligonucleotides Os_ok1-F4 (CCAGGTTAAGTTTGGTGAGCA) (SEQ ID NO: 17) and Os_ok1-R6 (CAAAGCACGATATCTGACCTGT) (SEQ ID NO: 18) as a primer on RNA of immature rice seeds. The amplified DNA fragment was cloned in the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as pML120.

The part of the open reading frame from position 839 to position 1761 of the sequence specified under ~~SEQ DIE NO 3~~ SEQ ID NO 3 was amplified with the help of reverse transcriptase and polymerase chain reaction using the synthetic oligonucleotides Os_ok1-F7 (TTGTTCGCGGGATATTGTCAGA) (SEQ ID NO: 19) and Os_ok1-R7 (GACAAGGGCATCAAGAGTAGTATC) (SEQ ID NO: 20) as a primer on RNA of immature rice seeds. The amplified DNA fragment was cloned in the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as pML121.

The part of the open reading frame from position 1571 to position 3241 of the sequence specified under ~~SEQ DIE NO 3~~ SEQ ID NO 3 was amplified with the help of reverse transcriptase and polymerase chain reaction using the synthetic oligonucleotides Os_ok1-F8 (ATGATGCGCCTGATAATGCT) (SEQ ID NO: 21) and Os_ok1-R4 (GGCAAACAGTATGAAGCACGA) (SEQ ID NO: 22) as a primer on RNA of immature rice seeds. The amplified DNA fragment was cloned in the vector pCR2.1

(Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as pML119.

The part of the open reading frame from position 2777 to position 3621 was amplified with the help of polymerase chain reaction using the synthetic oligonucleotides Os_ok1-F3 (CATTTGGATCAATGGAGGATG) (SEQ ID NO: 23) and Os_ok1-R2 (CTATGGCTGTGGCCTGCTTTGCA) (SEQ ID NO: 24) as a primer on genomic DNA of rice. The amplified DNA fragment was cloned in the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as pML122.

The cloning together of the sub-parts of the open reading frame of OK1 was carried out as follows.

A 700 base pair along *Apa*I fragment of pML120, containing part of the open reading frame of OK1, was cloned in the *Apa*I site of pML121. The plasmid obtained was designated as pMI47.

A 960 base pair long fragment containing the areas of vectors from pML120 and pML123 coding for OK1 was amplified by means of polymerase chain reaction. In doing so, the primers Os_ok1-F4 (see above) and Os_ok1-R9 (see above), each in a concentration of 50 nm, and the primers Os_ok1-F6 and Os_ok1-R6, each in a concentration of 500 nm, were used. The amplified DNA fragment was cloned in the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as pMI44.

An 845 base pair long fragment of pML122 was reamplified for introducing a XhoI site after the stop codon with the primers Os_ok1-F3 (see above) and Os_ok1-R2Xho (AAAACTCGAGCTATGGCTGTGGCCTGCTTTGCA) (SEQ ID NO: 25) and cloned in the vector pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20). The plasmid obtained was designated as t pMI45.

Please replace the paragraphs at page 100 lines 4-24 with the following:

The plasmid pIR94 was obtained by amplifying the promoter of the globulin gene from rice by means of a polymerase chain reaction (30 x 20 sec 94 °C, 20 sec 62 °C, 1 min 68 °C, 4 mM Mg_2SO_4) with the primers glb1-F2

(AAAACAATTGGCGCCTGGAGGGAGGAGA) (SEQ ID NO: 26) and gib1-R1 (AAAACAATTGATGATCAATCAGACAATCACTAGAA) (SEQ ID NO: 27) on the genomic DNA of rice of the variety M202 with High Fidelity Taq Polymerase (Invitrogen, catalogue number 11304-011) and cloned in pCR2.1 (Invitrogen catalogue number K2020-20).

The plasmid pIR87 was obtained by amplifying the intron 1 of the gene coding for alcohol hydrogenase from maize with the primers Adh(i)-1 (TTTTCTCGAGGTCCGCCTTGTTTCTCCT) (SEQ ID NO: 28) and Adh(i)-2 (TTTTCTCGAGCTGCACGGGTCCAGGA) (SEQ ID NO: 29) on the genomic DNA of maize. The product of the polymerase chain reaction (30 x 30 sec 94 °C, 30 sec 59 °C, 1 min 72 °C, 2.5 mM $MgCl_2$) was digested with the restriction enzyme *Xho*I and cloned in the vector pBluescript II SK+ (Genbank # X52328), which had been excised with the same enzyme.

The plasmid pIR115 was obtained by cloning a synthetic piece of DNA consisting of the two oligonucleotides X1 (TGCAGGCTGCAGAGCTCCTAGGCTCGAGTTAACACTAGTAAGCTTAATTAAG ATATCATTTAC) (SEQ ID NO: 30) and X2 (AATTGTAAATGATATCTTAATTAAGCTTACTAGTGTTAACTCGAGCCTAGGA GCTCTGCAGCCTGCA) (SEQ ID NO: 31) in the vector pGSV71 excised with *Sda*I and *Mun*I.